[19th October 1927

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"Order, order. The question has been answered by saying that the matter is under the consideration of the Government. I do not think the question now arises."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"If the hon. Minister is not in a position to give the details just now, will he at least take the House into confidence and give the information at a later stage?"

The hon. Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Yes, Sir. As soon as possible."

* 666 Q.—Please see page 192 infra.

Education

Training of rural school teachers in scientific agriculture.

* 667 Q.—Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the teachers in the village elementary schools in the agricultural areas of the Presidency have any training in scientific agriculture ;

(b) whether these teachers have any experience as cultivators ;

(c) the percentage of the children of school-going age in the villages belonging to the agricultural classes ;

(d) the measures, if any, taken by the Government at least in the elementary schools in the agricultural villages to give an agricultural bias to all teaching, if agriculture cannot be taught as a distinct subject ; and

(e) the steps, if any, taken by the Government for rural school teachers to obtain a knowledge of scientific agriculture and practical experience in cultivation ?

A.—(a) & (b) It is only in very exceptional cases that teachers in the village elementary schools have either a training in scientific agriculture or any experience as cultivators.

(c) Information is not available.

(d) & (e) It is under contemplation to introduce an alternative course in agriculture in select higher elementary and middle schools in this Presidency. A committee consisting of certain officers of the Educational and Agricultural departments has been formed to work out the details of the scheme. The proposals are awaited.

Facilities for the education of poor Adi-Dravidas and Adi-Andhras.

* 668 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether local bodies will be permitted to give free education and also clothes and mid-day meal to the children of poor Adi-Dravidas and Adi-Andhras and meet such expenditure from the Elementary Education Fund ; and

(b) if so, whether a Government Order will be issued to that effect ?

A.—(a) & (b) Local bodies have been empowered to abolish at their discretion, fees in elementary schools under their management subject however to the condition that the usual contribution